doned. Only the work on Jammu border was held up due to firing from Pakistan side. Re-starting of fencing work on International Border in Jammu Sector is under active consideration of the Government.

Assistance to New Shipping Cooperatives by Financial Institutions

2695. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial institutions are not assisting new cooperative undertakings such as spinning mills;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is likely to affect the cooperative movement?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) No reports have been received that the financial Institutions are not assisting new cooperative undertakings such as spinning mills.

(c) Does not arise.

Barak Dam Project

2696. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of Barak Dam Project (Tipai Mukh);

(b) whether it is afact that because of stiff resi ur, project could not be implement; an

(c) if so, the alternative action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Technical clearance subject to certain conditions was granted to Tipaimukh Dam Project (Barak Dam).

(b) and (c) Work is held up in absence of agreement between the concerned States of Assam, Manipur and Mizoram. The matter has been taken up with the Government of Manipur.

Financial Assistance for Irrigation Projects in Orissa

2697. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to release financial assistance to the irrigation projects in the districts of Bolangir and Kalahandi in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 38 crores under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme has been approved for Upper Indravati Project which benefits Kalahandi & Nawrangpur Districts of Orissa for the year 1996-97. An amount of Rs. 19 crores has been released to the Government of Orissa as first instalment.

Maintenance of Howrah Bridge

2698. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system to check and inspect regularly the Howrah Bridge in Calcutta for safety and maintenance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) The regular checking, inspection and maintenance of Rabindra Setu (formerly known as Howrah Bridge) are duly carried out by Calcutta Port Trust.